REMARKS

Claims 10-17 remain in the application. Claims 1-9 were previously canceled.

Typographical errors in Claims 10 and 15 have been corrected by the foregoing amendment.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants elect, with traverse,
Group I, claims 10-16, drawn to a method of obtaining ... an acidification kinetic
"during a process for making cheese and other fermented dairy products."

The requirement is traversed because the inventions are clearly related, each to the other, and the Examiner is not <u>required</u> to insist on restriction. Applicants submit that, despite the separate classification, it would not be unduly burdensome for the Examiner to examine the related subject matter of Group II together with elected Group I. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: <u>August 30, 2004</u>

Mary Katherine Baumeister Registration No. 26,254

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404

(703) 836-6620